

[1 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

meet requirement of coal through import instead of fulfilling responsibility to enhance indigenous production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Since coal is under Open General Licence (OGL), consumers and Coal India Limited (CIL) are free to import coal based on their requirement. Import of coal is done due to limited indigenous availability of coking and low ash non-coking coal and on account of environmental requirements and consideration of location specific landed cost.

(c) and (d) During the year 2005-06, out of the total indigenous production of 407.039 million tonnes of coal, contribution of various producers was: Coal India Limited-343,389 million tonnes, Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL)-36.138 million tonnes, others including PSUs and captive consumers: 27.512 million tonnes. Various measures are being taken to increase indigenous production of coal which include taking up an Emergency Coal Production Plan, allocation of coal blocks to public and private sector companies as per the extant policy, increasing productivity of work force and machines etc.

Coal mine accidents

270. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI PRASANTACHATTERJEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) The number of coal mine accidents that took place during the last five year, year-wise;

(b) The number of casualties thereof;

(c) The number of cases in which enquiries were ordered; and

(d) The outcomes of such enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The number of coal mine accidents that took place during the last five years and the number of casualties is given as under:

Year	No. of Accidents	No. of Casualties
2002	81	97
2003	83	113
2004	87	96
2005	99	120
2006	78	137

Note: Data for year 2005 and 2006 are provisional.

(c) and (d) All fatal accidents are enquired into by the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) under the Ministry of Labours & Employment which is a statutory body for administration of statutes relating to safety in mines under the Mines Act, 1952 and regulations framed thereunder. The persons found guilty are prosecuted by the DGMS.

In cases of major accidents, where the Central Government is of the opinion that a formal enquiry into the causes and circumstances attending the accident ought to be held, it may appoint a competent person to hold such enquiry under Section 24 of the Mines Act, 1952. In the last 5 years such Courts of Inquiry were appointed in case of four major coal mine accidents. Out of which reports of two cases *i.e.* GDK-7(LEP) of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCC1) and Central Saunda Colliery of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) have been published. On the basis of findings of the enquiry reports, DGMS has prosecuted six officials of SCCL in case of GDK-7(LEP) and has launched prosecution against five officials of CCL found responsible in case of Central Saunda Colliery mine accident.

Allocation of Lignite Blocks

†271. SHRI LALIT KISHROE CHATURVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which Government propose to make changes in the present process of allocation of Lignite blocks;

(b) whether the State Governments could utilize the mineral resources

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.